

Amendment to the Drawings:

Replace the drawings with the attached page labeled "Replacement Sheet". This replacement sheet amends Figure 1 by adding a portion of the door and labeling the door with newly-added reference numeral "15". No other change is made.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Drawings Objection

The Examiner objects to the drawings for not showing the vehicle and the doors. The claims have been amended to delete recitation of the vehicle. Thus, the vehicle door need not be shown in the drawings.

A replacement sheet for the drawings is enclosed herewith and a portion of the door has been added and assigned a reference numeral "15". This is not new matter as the door was described in the application as filed.

Specification Amendment

The section of the application entitled "Description of the Preferred Embodiment" has been amended to add the reference numeral "15" to designate the door.

Claim Objections and Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 112

The preamble of the Claims has been amended to read "A central locking system for vehicle doors, comprising: an electrical switch for changing the central locking system to a locking or an unlocking state, and an opening.....".

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Suparashi (US 2001/0005082).

Suparashi is explicit that pushing the door handle 16 outwardly to the position of Figure 9 will operate the locking switch 36, and pulling the door handle inwardly toward the occupant will operate the unlocking switch 34. There is no teaching or suggestion in Suparashi that pushing the door handle outwardly to the position of Figure 9 would operate the switches in a manner to accomplish either the locking or the unlocking of the central locking system, from whichever condition was then prevailing.

In contrast, applicant, as recited in all of applicant's claims, claims a central locking system in which pushing the door handle outwardly will accomplish either the locking or an unlocking of the central locking system. In applicant's system, pushing the handle outwardly will lock the door if the door is unlocked, or unlock the door if the door is locked. Thus, applicant has provided and claimed structure and function not existing in the Suparashi reference.

Additionally, new independent claim 21 and dependent claims 22 -24 are presented and include the recitation of "wherein the switch is associated in a rotationally rigid manner with a pivot pin that mounts the opening lever on the at least one door so that the switch is operated directly by the pivot pin that rotates with the operating lever."

Suparashi is entitled "Automobile Door Handle Comprising Sophisticated Means for Actuating Switching Devices". In Suparashi, a door handle 16 is hinged for rotation about a pivot axis A1 on the inside of the door, and linked to a locking and unlocking switches 34 and 36 by sophisticated and complex mechanism including drive pin 24 on the handle 16, a cam 38, and an actuating lever 44, by which the simple rotation of the door handle induces sophisticated camming and pivoting motions to operate the locking and unlocking switches 34 and 36.

In contrast, applicant, as recited in claims such as claim 2 and 21, claims a vastly simplified arrangement in which a switch is associated in a rotationally rigid manner with a pivot pin that mounts the door handle. In this way, applicant provides an elegantly simplified structure to operate the central locking and unlocking switch.

In view of the foregoing amendments to the drawings, specification and claims, applicant respectfully urges that the application is in condition for allowance of the claims as presented herein. Such allowance is earnestly solicited.

New claims 25 – 28 are also presented for examination.

If for some reason a fee needs to be paid, please charge Deposit Account No. 07-0960 for the fee that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Replacement Drawing Sheet